

## **Tribute to Brother Bill Foster**

By Sister Barbara Bogenschutz

Days grew to weeks  
weeks to months  
months to years  
47 years here on Pine Ridge  
47 years serving Red Cloud Indian School

Measuring, cutting  
sawing, hammering  
simple planks  
into things of beauty  
into things of usefulness

Too many to count  
many forgotten  
his hand created

His handprint is here  
shelf under the altar  
our ambry – shelf for our Holy Oils  
the outhouse – made more than once over the years  
a place for relief for many each day  
how many more items crafted  
that were made before I came?

He worked with others  
and was the boss of countless  
that came and called Red Cloud  
their place of work  
and Red Cloud family

Brother Bill Foster  
is more than what he did  
and what he built

We know his smile  
his strong handshake  
heard his teasing  
listened to his wit

He bowed his head  
he prayed with us each Sunday  
sliding into the back pew  
claiming the best view

His remaining days with us are few  
as he moves east to Wisconsin  
joining a community of Jesuits  
dedicated, talented  
and, yes, sometimes weary  
each filled and fulfilled  
years of wisdom and experience

When you come this way again  
know your place will be saved for you  
in that back pew of course  
your family here will welcome you

For now we send you with our  
LOVE AND BLESSINGS!